

MARCH 19th, 1814.

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Read the first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

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## A Bill

*For quieting and adjusting claims to land in the Mississippi territory.*

1        *Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives*  
2    *of the United States of America in congress assembled, That*  
3    every person or persons claiming lands in the Mississippi terri-  
4    tory, north of the thirty-first degree of latitude, by virtue of any  
5    grant or patent issued by the British government, before the  
6    fourth day of July, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-  
7    six, be, and they are hereby authorised to file with the commis-  
8    sioner of the general land office, all the evidence of their claim  
9    or claims, on or before the first day of November, one thousand  
10   eight hundred and fifteen. And it shall be lawful for the claim-  
11   ants, by themselves or their agents, to withdraw the original ti-  
12   tle papers, and all evidence having relation to such claims, from  
13   the registers of the land offices within the territory aforesaid, and  
14   which may have been filed by the claimants according to law.

1     *Sec. 2. And be it further enacted,* That the secretary of state,  
2     the attorney general, and the commissioner of the general land  
3     office, be, and they are hereby authorised and empowered to  
4     examine the claims thus filed, and to decide thereon according  
5     to law and equity. And it shall be the duty of the commission-  
6     ers aforesaid, to proceed to examine and decide on the claims  
7     aforesaid, whenever it shall appear to them that claims to the  
8     amount of seventy thousand acres shall have been filed with the  
9     commissioner of the general land office, in pursuance of this act.

1     *Sec. 3. And be it further enacted,* That the act of filing the  
2     claims aforesaid, with the commissioner of the general land of-  
3     fice, in pursuance of this act, shall be considered as conclusive  
4     evidence of the acceptance of the claimants of the provisions of  
5     this act; and the decisions of the commissioners aforesaid shall  
6     be final, and shall have all the effect in law of a decision of the  
7     supreme court of the United States.

1     *Sec. 4. And be it further enacted,* That in all cases where the  
2     commissioners aforesaid shall decide in favor of the claimant,  
3     the commissioner of the general land office shall issue to the  
4     claimant, a certificate of confirmation, specifying the quantity of  
5     land confirmed by such decision; and it shall be the duty of the  
6     commissioner of the general land office to deliver such certificate  
7     of confirmation to the claimant, his agent, or attorney, which  
8     shall be received in lieu of, and in full compensation for, the  
9     land so claimed.

1     *Sec. 5. And be it further enacted,* That the certificates of con-  
2     firmation, authorised by this act, shall be received at any of the  
3     land offices, except those within the Mississippi territory, in pay-  
4     ment for a like quantity of land specified therein: *Provided,*  
5     That the certificates aforesaid shall not be received in payment  
6     for any lands sold before the date of such certificate, or for any  
7     lands sold at public sale: *And provided also,* That nothing in  
8     this act shall be so construed as to authorise any British grant  
9     or patent to be read as evidence in any court of the United  
10    States which may not be filed with the commissioner of the ge-  
11    neral land office in pursuance of this act, and which may be bar-  
12    red by any former law.